

Message Text

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46

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SIG-01 ABF-01 /021 W

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R 051206Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7561

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, IN

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR USG RESIDENCES IN BOMBAY

1. I HAVE JUST CONCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT INSPECTORS ABOUT THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF USG-OWNED RESIDENCES IN BOMBAY. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH OUR CONSUL GENERAL AND MY EXECUTIVE COUNSEL HAS JUST RETURNED FROM BOMBAY WHERE HE HAS REVIEWED THE SITES. ON THE BASIS OF THIS THOROUGH CONSIDERATION, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF CONSUL GENERAL COURTNEY AND THE RECOMMENDATION WHICH IS BEING MADE BY THE INSPECTORS THAT THE US TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PURCHASE THE 1.7 ACRE AGA KHAN PROPERTY ON MALABAR HILL IN BOMBAY. WE CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS PLOT OF LAND TO CONSTRUCT BOTH APARTMENTS AND A CONSUL GENERAL RESIDENCE, USING THE SURPLUS RUPEES WE NOW HAVE AND USING THEM RIGHT AWAY BEFORE THEY DEPRECIATE IN FURTHER INFLATION. WE WON'T GET A BETTER PRICE ON THIS LAND AS A COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES (NEW RESTRICTIONS ON ITS SALE DUE TO URBAN PROPERTY CEILINGS), WORK TO KEEP THE PRICE DOWN, BUT WE CAN'T COUNT ON THIS LASTING.

2. ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION IS A FURTHER PROPOSAL THAT WE CEASE CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OFFICE BUILDING, THUS MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS AND PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH PLANS FOR A THOROUGH REMODELING OF THE PRESENT BUILDING. BY MOVING THE CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE OUT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVOTE THE ENTIRE BUILDING TO OFFICES FOR WHICH IT WOULD BE ADMIRABLY SUITED FOR YEARS TO COME AT THE PRESENT EXCELLENT SITE.

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THE INSPECTORS BELIEVE THAT WE COULD MOVESOME OF THE USIS OFFICES

INTO THE CONSULATE BUILDING, EFFECTING FURTHER SAVINGS.

3. I HOPE I MAY HAVE AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE SO THAT
WE MAY PROCEED RAPIDLY SO TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY
WHICH DELAY MAY HAZARD.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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